Maharashtra. As the first year indicative tariffs of these schemes are high, these are not being considered for preparation of Detailed Project Report in the first instance.

Electrification of Villages by REC

† 2380. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which have been provided with electricity by REC so far;

(b) the time likely to be taken for the completion of the said project, alongwith the details of remaining electrification work for all the villages at present; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) as a financial institution provides financial assistance to State Power Utilities for implementation of rural electrification programme against the eligible projects received from them. Under REC financed projects, 307325 villages (including 1419 villages under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) have been reproted electrified in various States up to November 2005, as per the details given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) With a view to provide access to electricity to all rural households in the country by 2009, Government of India has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) in April, 2005. The scheme covers electrification of all the villages in the country except the villages under the programme of Ministry of Non-conventionall Energy Sources (MNES) for providing electricity from non-conventional energy sources under their remote village electrification programme of 25,000 villages. The salient features of the scheme are as under:—

* Scheme is for the attainment of the goal set for providing access to electricity to all households in four years.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

* Ninety per cent capital subsidy would be provided for overall cost of the project under the scheme.

* States must make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.

* For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the States would also be obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for:—

* deployment of franchiesees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme; and

* the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

* REC is the nodal agency for the scheme.

178 projects have been approved till November, 2005 covering 182 districts of 20 States. These (178) projects cover 51037 unelectrified villages and 6427998 unelectrified rural households. Inviting tenders, awarding contracts, franchisee deployment are already in progress in a number of States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Haryana.

Statement

Villages electrified under the projects financed by REC during 2005-06 and cumulative position upto 31-10-2005

Sl. No.	State	Achievement during 2005-06 (upto 31.10.2005)	Cumulative Achievement upto 31.10.2005
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	14907
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1316
3	Assam	-	16363
4	Bihar	521*	33011
5	Gujarat	-	7712
6	Haryana	-	90
7	Himachal Pradesh	-	11143

1	2	3	4
8	Jammu & Kashmir	.	4416
9	Karnataka	-	8907
10	Kerala	-	151
11	Madhya Pradesh	-	54411
12	Maharashtra	-	13322
13	Manipur	-	1720
14	Meghalaya	-	2321
15	Mizoram	-	531
16	Nagaland	-	793
17	Orissa	-	26648
18	Punjab	-	3908
19	Rajasthan	-	26477
20	Sikkim	-	277
21	Tamil Nadu	-	807
22	Tripura	-	3223
23	Uttar Pradesh	898*	50779
24	Uttaranchal	9	467
25	West Bengal	68	23625
	TOTAL	1496	307325

*Under Gol scheme "RGGVY"

Thermal Power Plants in the country

† 2381 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) total number of thermal power plants in the country at present;

(b) whether there is dearth of coal in these thermal power plants;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to overcome this dearth of coal;

(d) whether Kanti thermal power plant of Bihar is achieving its set-target; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken to achieve the target?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.